



G-5's "Eye on AMC" U.S. Army Materiel Command

Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

November 5, 2004

Gen. Benjamin Griffin becomes 16th commander of AMC

Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin assumed command of the U.S. Army Materiel Command today in a ceremony at Fort Belvoir's Long Parade Field. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker hosted the event.

As Griffin assumes command, Gen. Paul J. Kern steps down as AMC commander, having been in the position since October 2001.

Griffin, who was promoted to the rank of general prior to the change of command, is coming from the Pentagon after serving three years as the Department of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8. He brings with him a vast amount of operational knowledge and expertise.

Griffin's major duty assignments include: commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Fort Hood, Texas; commanding general of Joint Task Force 6, Fort Bliss, Texas; commander of the 2nd Brigade, 6th Infantry Division in Fort Wainwright, Alaska; commander of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division in Germany; and company commander in the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

In addition, Griffin has received several awards and decorations during his 34 years of service including: the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with an Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Army Achievement Medal (with an Oak Leaf Cluster).

Griffin, who was commissioned in July 1970, received a bachelor's degree in Business Management from Old Dominion University in 1969 and a master's degree in Business Administration from Mercer University in 1981. He is a native of Emporia, Va.

Last GB-filled M55 rocket safely destroyed at Anniston

Anniston's last nerve agent GB-filled M55 rocket was safely destroyed Oct. 29 at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

"All 42,738 rockets, along with 24 rocket warheads, that were part of the chemical weapons stockpile at Anniston Army Depot have now been safely demilitarized," said Timothy Garrett, the ANCDF government site project manager. "Our community is safer today than when disposal operations began last year."

All of the rockets were drained of nerve agent GB, cut into eight pieces, and safely incinerated in the ANCDF Deactivation Furnace using a technology that was first tested on a small coral island in the Pacific Ocean, then employed at a similar chemical weapons disposal facility in Utah. The last rocket was safely destroyed within 10 minutes.

The Anniston stockpile still includes tens of thousands of GB-filled artillery shells, as well as weapons filled with nerve agent VX and Mustard, or blister agent. All of the chemical weapons stored at the depot are expected to be demilitarized during the next six years.

The first phase of chemical weapons disposal operations began on Aug. 9, 2003. The second phase of operations, involving GB-filled artillery shells, is expected to begin in December.

Did you know...

Several AMC employees were recognized in a ceremony Oct. 29 for their contributions to the Iraqi reconstruction efforts. Gen. Paul J. Kern, then AMC commanding general, presided over the ceremony and congratulated personnel who worked long hours over the past year to support the ongoing rebuilding efforts in Iraq. Seventy-two employees from headquarters, AMC; Aviation and Missile Command; Research, Development and Engineering Command; Tank-automotive and Armaments Command; and the Communications-Electronics Command were recognized.